

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF FRED O. PLACKE
III

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Fred O. Placke III. He was a businessman, educator, realtor, public servant and humanitarian.

As a college student at Tarleton State in Stephenville, Texas, Mr. Placke and a small group of fellow football players distributed donated gifts to children at a local foster home. Over the past four decades, he expanded that initial charitable endeavor into an annual community Christmas event in Goldthwaite, Texas as he and a multitude of volunteer "elves" delivered moving trucks full of thousands of presents for children at the New Horizons Foster Home.

After graduation, Mr. Placke returned to his hometown of Spring Woods where he taught history and coached football. Later in his teaching career, he taught U.S. government at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas and was voted "Teacher of the Year" in 1997. Two years later, he was elected to the Lewisville ISD Board of Trustees and subsequently served for twelve years; six of those years, he led the Board as President. Fred Placke was a passionate educator, dedicated leader and active community volunteer. He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather and will be sorely missed by his family and friends to whom I extend my sincere condolences.

HONORING DANIEL C. WEBER

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Daniel C. Weber, veteran, husband, father, grandfather, entrepreneur, visionary and giant in the conservative movement. Dan passed away in February. He embodied the American dream: humble and optimistic, resilient and resolved, hopeful and quick to give. Dan was never without a ready smile, never without appreciation for good fortune, never without faith in America, his fellow Americans, and his loving God.

Believing that Americans aged 50-plus deserved better representation in DC, Dan and his wife Judy created AMAC—the Association of Mature American Citizens for Americans. AMAC is the voice for individuals concerned with the spread of big government and its intrusion into their daily lives, the erosion of personal liberties and disregard for the Constitution, a document Dan believed to be the greatest ever conceived by mankind. Dan envi-

sioned AMAC to be a right-of-center, member-driven organization with an unwavering focus on the best interests of its membership.

From very humble beginnings in 2007, today AMAC has a membership of over 2 million people residing in every state of the country and it continues to grow. AMAC's common-sense, free-market approach to the problems facing the country resonates with Americans looking for an organization that holds their values of faith, family and freedom in the same high regard.

Dan Weber was an American success story and pillar of the conservative movement. We are grateful for the example he set. May he rest in peace knowing that his "good fight" to preserve America's best will continue. I am confident his beloved AMAC army will grow ever stronger, bigger and more resolved to see the mission through.

TRUMP BUDGET CUTS TO SNAP

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for our food insecure families.

Federal anti-hunger programs like SNAP play a vital role in the lives of 12th District families, but the Trump Budget slashes \$182 billion from food assistance programs.

President Trump's proposal to cut SNAP benefits comes on the heels of three USDA rules which will cut benefits for almost 4 million Americans and jeopardize 1 million children's access to free school breakfast and lunch.

These are real people they're hurting. These are our children, our friends, our neighbors.

Here's the sad truth: this President wants to pay for his billionaire tax cuts by letting children starve.

A couple months ago, I visited Windsor Park Elementary School in Charlotte as they were putting together their first food pantry for students.

Of their 650 students, many are homeless and 150 have immediate needs.

Their food pantry was put together because students kept asking their teachers and administrators for food.

Principal Shanna Rae told a local TV station that "you can tell a difference in students when they have something to eat."

That's not Oliver Twist: sadly, that's our community.

Over 20 million children across our country rely on SNAP.

Instead of cutting SNAP, we should expand it, so that children and families don't have to worry about where their next meal is going to come from.

Scripture tells us that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

How can we expect them to do that if they have nothing to eat?

HONORING MARGARET WHELCHER
AS A VETERAN AND AS A PART
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margaret Patricia Whelcher for her achievements in the United States Air Force for Black History Month. Ms. Whelcher served from August 3, 1988 to November 5, 1991 and earned the rank of Senior Airman.

Senior Airman Whelcher trained at Lackland Air Force Base and Langley Air Force Base, and was part of the 1913 Communications Group. Her dedication and passion are evident, I commend Senior Airman Whelcher for her service and honor her as a part of the Black History Month Program in Rockford called "Capturing American History: The Unique Perspective of the African American Female Service Member." I would like to thank Senior Airman Whelcher for her service and recognize her for her experiences as an African American, female service member.

It is because of community leaders like Margaret that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Margaret Patricia Whelcher for her service in the United States Air Force.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
DAVID OWEN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary work and life of service of Captain David Owen of the University of North Texas Police Department in Denton, Texas.

Captain David Owen began his law enforcement career with the Titus County Sheriff's Office in 2004. He was hired by the University of North Texas Police Department on June 13, 2005 as a Police Officer. He served the UNT students, faculty, and staff until his death on February 11, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Captain Owen received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and political science from Midwestern State University and a graduate certification in criminal justice education from the University of Virginia. He also attended several leadership training programs including the 270th session of the FBI National Academy, the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Executive

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Development Institute and the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's School of Police Supervision.

At the time of his death, Captain Owen supervised the Field Services unit of the police department, overseeing patrol and special events planning. His prior roles in the department include serving as Support Services Unit Supervisor, Criminal Investigator and Patrol Officer. Captain Owen was a certified TCOLE Master Peace Officer and Police Instructor. He had served on UNT's Student Support Task Force, and earned a Police Commendation and the Excellence in Public Service award, as well as being recognized by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

David Owen was extremely tough and resilient in his last fight, a reflection of the type of person he was—dedicated to performing the job well and to the best of his abilities. He stood up for what he believed was right but was always thoughtful enough to consider the viewpoints of others. He believed strongly in educating himself and others so that clear and informed decisions could be made. He is survived by his wife Joy and their six children who live in Krum, Texas.

Captain Owen devoted over 20 years of his life to protect and serve his community, putting strangers' safety above his own, and we are indebted to him. His positive impact and worthwhile contributions to the UNT Police Department and UNT community will be sorely missed. I am deeply grateful for his service and pray for comfort and peace for his wife, children and friends.

RECOGNIZING THE TYSONS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE INCOMING 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate the incoming 2020 board members.

Tysons has drastically transformed during the past 56 years from a sleepy, rural area to one of the most vibrant regions in the country. This change began when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved plans for the Tysons Corner Shopping Center in 1962. When the mall opened in 1968, it was hailed as the largest enclosed mall in the world.

Since then, there has been a dramatic influx of technology companies, government contracting firms, and other corporations. Tysons has become the premier business district of the Washington Metropolitan Area and is one of the largest employment centers in the United States. With the opening of Metro's Silver Line and ongoing redevelopment, the region is expected to continue adding not only businesses but also high-density residential housing. 45 million square feet of transit-oriented development is already present in Tysons and more is on the way.

The mission of the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce is to be the unified voice of the business community while ensuring that its ties and commitment to the community are strengthened.

The Chamber actively promotes local non-profits and community organizations as well as youth educational programs, and it sponsors multiple events each year in support of these activities. The growth of the Chamber has been the result of the diversity of its members and the leadership of its Board. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the following names of the incoming 2020 board members:

Chairman of the Board: Tucker Gladhill.

At-Large Members: Adelle Elia, Alex Levy, Andrew Clark, Angela Inzerillo, Anthony Anikeeff, Brenda MacRoberts, Courtney Pierce, Diana Villarreal, Dr. Michelle Walker, Gina Westfall, Jeff Brouse, Kara Shelton, Kathy McNeill, Ken Fischer, Kevin Corey, Kevin Schafer, Maureen Caufield, Maurice Springer, Miriam Tadross, Micah Edmond, Mike Batt, Peter Fish, Richard Luttrell, Timothy Klinkner, Tracy Harris, Vicki Warker.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the incoming board members and in commending the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce for its commitment to promoting the business community while encouraging social responsibility and civic engagement. I wish the Chamber the very best for its continued growth and success.

IN HONOR OF TORRINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department on celebrating 100 years of dedicated service to Torrington and the surrounding community.

When it was formed on February 14, 1920, the department consisted of a horse-drawn cart and a fire bell. In the years that followed, the department received modern engines like the 1934 Ford engine that has been fully restored and is on display at the firehouse today. Volunteer fire companies play a critical role in keeping our communities safe, and I extend my thanks to all the volunteers—past and present—who have dedicated their time to Torrington. Today represents a milestone in the storied history of the department, and I know they will continue to serve their community with distinction for the next 100 years as well.

Again, Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Torrington Volunteer Fire Department for 100 years of service.

CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSFIELD FOR RECEIVING THE 2019 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN AWARD CUP

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the village of Williamsfield, Illinois for receiving the 2019 Governor's Hometown

Award Cup for the Playground Barn Raising Project. The Williamsfield Park District and Williamsfield Future Farmers of America Alumni and Friends worked together to make this project possible.

The Governor's Hometown Award Cup has been bestowed every year since 1983 to recognize those who have contributed to projects that improve quality of life in the community. When the playground in Williamsfield village park started deteriorating, \$150,000 were raised to build a multi-level playground barn with several other play features. Seventy-seven volunteers were recruited and gave 2,032 hours to build these structures. The award committee noted that the "inspirational barn raising promotes physical activity among youth and embodies the power of volunteerism." This marks the first time the award has gone to anyone in Knox County, Illinois. Williamsfield will keep the trophy for a year and the Illinois Department of Transportation will set up a road sign in the community for the award. I commend Williamsfield for their dedication to the community.

It is because of the community leaders, volunteers and everyone who made the Playground Barn Raising Project possible in Williamsfield that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate the village of Williamsfield for winning the 2019 Governor's Hometown Award Cup.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HELEN SEKUTOWSKI

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Helen Sekutowski, a resident of Westland, Michigan, as she celebrates her ninetieth birthday.

Ms. Sekutowski was born in Detroit on February 25, 1930 to Polish immigrant parents. She carries a life-long pride in her Polish ancestry. Ms. Sekutowski's devotion to community and family are apparent. She, along with her husband Eugene, created a loving home for their six children. She is committed to living a positive and spiritual life, attending mass services every Sunday. Her light and love for life is demonstrated through the positive spirit and impact that she has on her friends and neighbors.

Please join me in celebrating Helen Sekutowski's ninetieth birthday as we wish her many more to come.

REMEMBERING CLIFFORD C. KUNKEL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and service of Colonel Clifford C. Kunkel, a decorated Air Force veteran and active member of his community in California.

Born on February 4, 1932, Clifford grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey, and graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland. In 1952, Clifford enlisted in the Air Force and was a B-29 Superfortress crew member during the Korean War. He later served as a military advisor in Vietnam and was a pilot, navigator, bombardier, and missile combat crew commander. His military decorations include The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the Commendation Medal. In 1957, he married the love of his life, Jean Marie Nissen. Clifford completed postings across the country, before he finally settled in California in 1973 with Jean Marie and their three sons.

Once Clifford retired from active duty in 1978, he quickly established himself as an active member of his community. He served 21 years as a Firefighter, Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Medical Technician in the Gordon Valley Volunteer Fire Department. The community recognized his leadership by electing him President of the Napa Sunrise Rotary Club, board member of the Napa-Solano United Way, the North Bay YMCA, the Silverado Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the Napa Chamber of Commerce. He continued his passion for flying and was often found at the Nut Tree Airport, teaching flying or surrounded by friends who shared his love for aviation. The Federal Aviation Administration honored him with the highly prestigious Wright Brothers "Master Pilot Award," recognizing over 50 years of Clifford's aviation expertise. For fun, Clifford would travel to Carmel and Hawaii with his family and was a winery tour guide at Charles Krug and Monticello Wineries.

He is survived by his wife Jean Marie; children Clifford Anthony, Paul William, and Roger Alan; and grandchildren Clifford, Jon, Megan, Kelsey, Patrick, Gabriel, and Joseph. I know that they, along with the rest of his extended family and friends, join me in celebrating his life and his memory.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

For 20 years in the North Carolina General Assembly, I fought tirelessly to get our state to ratify the ERA.

And, since joining this body in 2014, I have supported the ERA in every Congress.

That's why I was overjoyed to see Virginia's vote last month to become the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA.

For 100 years women in North Carolina, Virginia, and all across this country have been fighting for the ERA.

And we shouldn't have to wait another 100 years to get equal justice under the law.

To this day, women are still paid less for our work, face workplace harassment, and are discriminated against simply for being who they are.

Women who work full time, year-round still only make 82 cents on the dollar for men's earnings.

For women of color, the disparity is even worse.

Black women make only 62 cents, Latinas make 54 cents, and Native women make 58 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.

One in three women experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

Sixty to seventy percent of women face sexual harassment during their careers.

Sixty-two percent of pregnant women and new moms are in the workforce, yet under current law, pregnant workers can be placed on unpaid leave or forced out of their jobs because of a pregnancy.

These are just some of the reasons that ratifying the ERA is so important.

The ERA would help us fight those battles by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in our most important, foundational document: the Constitution.

I think we can all agree that our courts shouldn't have the option to treat women as less than equal.

The Constitution was designed to be amended.

Our founders made mistakes. They counted me as three-fifths of a person. They allowed slavery to persist in our country. They weren't Gods; they were men.

And, as times change, we have a responsibility to change with them to ensure ALL people are afforded equal protections and rights.

To quote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, "I ask no favor for my sex; all I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

That's why we won't rest until women and men are finally equal under the eyes of the law.

RECOGNIZING MR. SYED BABAR ALI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an individual who has made enormous contributions to our global community, Mr. Syed Babar Ali, who will be celebrating his 94th birthday this year. In celebration of this occasion, it is only fitting that I and my colleagues take a moment to reflect and recognize some of the contributions he has made throughout his life.

Mr. Ali was born in Lahore, Pakistan in 1926 to prominent businessman Syed Maratib Ali and his wife Syeda Mubarik Begum, who was descended from the Afghan royal family. Mr. Ali learned the secrets of creating and managing successful businesses at the side of his father whose company was one of the largest contractors to the British Army during the colonial occupation of Pakistan, then still part of India. Mr. Ali began his education at Aitchison College in Lahore but soon relocated to the United States to continue his education at the University of Michigan. He had not been there long when the partition of India occurred and the newly independent nation of Pakistan was formed. Looking to use his skills to help his homeland, he returned to Pakistan in 1947, completing his education at the University of Punjab.

As a visionary and entrepreneur, Mr. Ali began his business career shortly after graduation, joining his family in a cotton exporting business. As he strove to increase exports, he recognized a need for a packaging company and founded Packages Unlimited which became Pakistan's largest paper and board mill.

He was also the founder of Milkpak Limited, now Nestle Pakistan Limited, which grew to become the largest food processing company in Pakistan. An advocate of joint ventures, he created partnerships with well-known foreign and international companies including Coca-Cola, Nestle, Tetra Pak (Sweden) and Mitsubishi, among others. After Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was elected President of Pakistan, the country began nationalizing many industries causing Mr. Ali's family to lose five of their six large businesses including their automotive and insurance businesses. Mr. Ali later reflected that these experiences helped teach him how to build and run a business from the ground up.

During this time, Mr. Ali began to realize that Pakistan needed a school of management to train managers and entrepreneurs, not only to benefit the individual students but to ensure the future prosperity of the entire country.

While studying at Harvard Business School, he sought the advice of faculty to guide him on how the school he wanted to establish should be set up. His driving force was to create an educational system capable of producing economic managers and creative thinkers—two things which were greatly needed in the country that at the time, was then experiencing economic growth and political upheaval.

Supported by a \$10 million grant from USAID and the patronage of the Pakistani business-industrial community, Mr. Ali founded Lahore University of Management and Science, now known by its acronym LUMS. From its beginning as a business school, LUMS has expanded its programs which now include liberal arts, science and engineering, economics, computer sciences, education and law.

In 2011, LUMS launched the National Outreach Programme to reach bright students from underprivileged areas of Pakistan. Under this initiative, selected candidates are brought into academic programs to prepare them for acceptance to the university. LUMS provides full financial assistance to those who enter this program. Financial assistance for other students include generous scholarships and interest-free loans.

Mr. Ali has also contributed to the betterment of Pakistan and the world in ways beyond business and education. In 1993, he served as Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning for Pakistan's caretaker government and has served the World Wildlife Fund International in various capacities including President. In 1985 he established the Babar Ali Foundation that contributes approximately \$1 million each year primarily to education and health initiatives in Pakistan. In recognition of his efforts and countless contributions, he has received honors and awards from the governments of Sweden and the Netherlands, an Order of the British Empire Award (OBE), and an honorary Doctorate Degree of Law from McGill University. These successes would perhaps not have been possible without the support of his beloved wife of 65 years Perwin, his children Henna and

Hyder, and his grandchildren Mubarik, Zehra, Murtaza and Gauhar.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this remarkable individual on his 94th birthday and in wishing him and his family continued health and happiness.

HONORING LANA MCCANTS AS A VETERAN AND AS A PART OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lana McCants for her achievements in the United States Navy for Black History Month. Ms. McCants served from May of 1991 to January of 1997 and earned the rank of Operations Specialist Third Class.

Operations Specialist Third Class McCants trained at the Orlando Naval Training Station and the Virginia Beach Naval Technical Training Facility. She was part of the crew of the USS *Acadia*, the Point Loma Naval Submarine Station, the USS *David R. Ray*, and Operation Desert Storm. I commend her for her service and honor her as a part of the Black History Month Program in Rockford called "Capturing American History: The Unique Perspective of the African-American Female Service Member." I would like to thank Lana McCants for her service and recognize her for her experiences as an African American female service-member. She has shown true commitment, leadership and determination throughout her time in the Navy.

It is because of community leaders like Lana that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Lana McCants for her service in the United States Navy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call Vote 37 on February 5, 2020. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2382, USPS Fairness Act, and, had I been present and voting, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 37.

HONORING ABDULLAH EL-AMIN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Imam Abdullah El-Amin's commitment to community service.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Abdullah El-Amin moved to Detroit, Michigan at the age of 7. His interest in the sciences led him to Shaw College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Chemistry and worked for twenty years as a medical technologist at various laboratories.

Abdullah El-Amin was called to pursue a more spiritual path. In 1983, Imam Abdullah, along with other members of the community, founded the Muslim Center of Detroit. It was incorporated in 1985. The mosque was formed primarily as a place for worship and as an outreach center to bring people from different religious backgrounds together. Imam Abdullah has always been passionate in his belief that interfaith dialogue creates stronger and more meaningful relationships across cultures.

Imam El-Amin is known for his ability to create connections across communities, and he has served as a delegate for projects internationally. Imam El-Amin also co-founded and served as the Executive Director of the Michigan Muslim Community Council (formerly, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan). His work there allowed him to forge many relationships and friendships with the broader Muslim community. In addition, he founded Crescent Janazah Services after seeing the need for quality end-of-life-care in the Metro-Detroit area, where he fostered the assistance of hundreds, if not thousands of families in their time of need. In addition to his spiritual and charitable work, Imam El-Amin is passionate about civic engagement. He served former mayor Dennis Archer as manager of the Neighborhood City Hall.

Imam El-Amin is foremost a family man. He was married to the love of his life, Dr. Cheryl El-Amin who he misses terribly. They are the parents of three children, Maurice, a high school principal; Zarinah, anthropologist and cultural entrepreneur; and Idris, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Please join me in saluting Imam El-Amin, as we recognize his many contributions to the spiritual and civic life of Detroit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the National Children's Museum Act, which would require the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Children's Museum (NCM) to allow NCM to remain in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, a federally owned building, without charge. My bill would allow the newly redesigned NCM, the nation's first combination children's museum and science center, to remain centrally located in the nation's capital for the benefit of all.

Originally named the Capital Children's Museum, NCM was a staple in the District of Columbia for decades. The institution opened in 1974 in a former convent on H Street Northeast. In 2003, Congress recognized the immense value in having a children's museum in the District and officially designated the museum the National Children's Museum. By 2004, NCM had outgrown its home on H Street, but had difficulty securing a new location. Since 2015 NCM's presence has been digital, serving D.C. public school students and public libraries online.

Now located in its new home in the Ronald Reagan Building at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave-

nue NW, NCM is poised to bring new and innovative STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) exhibits to the nation's capital, building on more than 30 years of educating D.C. children and families.

Despite its many benefits it brings to the nation's capital, NCM remains an outlier in terms of upkeep and maintenance. NCM is the only congressionally designated museum expected to pay rent in a federal building. This bill would allow NCM to remain in its current federal location without payment of rent, allowing staff to focus on bringing 21st century STEAM learning techniques to the nation's capital.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I was absent February 12–13, 2020 due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 60 YEA; Roll Call No. 61 NO; Roll Call No. 62 NO; Roll Call No. 63 YEA; Roll Call No. 64 NO; Roll Call No. 65 NO; Roll Call No. 66 YEA; Roll Call No. 67 NO; Roll Call No. 68 NO; Roll Call No. 69 YEA; and Roll Call No. 70 YEA.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LOIS WARREN

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of Lois Warren, a Detroit native, for her legacy of tenacity and spirit.

Ms. Warren valued hard work and it was evident in her everyday life. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in English and Social Work, a Master's Degree in Psychology and Social Work, and was among the first African-American women to earn a Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy. Ms. Warren enjoyed a wide-ranging career that included leadership roles as head of the Psychiatric Social Work Department of the former Herman Keifer Hospital in Detroit, and Executive Director of the Intake Division of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

More importantly, Ms. Warren was an advocate for civil rights and the visually impaired. Ms. Warren's own daughter, who lives with visual impairment, was the inspiration behind her relentless advocacy. She also played a key role in the wider distribution of large-print materials, such as menus, and for improved visual markers on large glass doors. Furthermore, she fought against women's wage inequities in her daily work, calling out unfair pay for work performed.

Please join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Lois Warren, a truly exemplary person.

RECOGNIZING BRAD GORDON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear and longtime friend Brad Gordon on the occasion of his retirement, concluding a career of dedicated public service and advocacy spanning more than 40 years.

Brad Gordon has personified excellence throughout his career. He graduated cum laude and with Honors in Politics from Brandeis University in 1971. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Vermont, a Master of Philosophy from Columbia University, and a Certificate from their Middle East Institute. While at Columbia, Brad was a National Defense Foreign Language Fellow in Arabic, while also serving as a Research Assistant. By 1979 he had begun his career in public service, working for the Central Intelligence Agency as a Political Analyst in the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis.

Brad spent 6 years at the CIA before he transitioned to a legislative role as both a foreign policy advisor for Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R-MN), and as a professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where I had the privilege of also serving.

Based on his wealth of foreign policy knowledge and experience, Brad was appointed the

Assistant Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for Nonproliferation Policy. During his tenure, he served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Geneva. He was responsible for issues related to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

In 1993, Brad became the Staff Director of the International Operations Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he helped oversee the operations of the State Department, the Agency for International Development, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and the U.S. Information Agency.

In 1995, Brad started working on constituent and issue advocacy as the Legislative Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). He went on to serve as the Director of Policy and Government Affairs and eventually as the Director for Strategic Policy at AIPAC. Throughout his career, Brad was an asset to all those around him. His intelligence, veracity, unflagging work ethic, persistence, and quality of character are unquestionable.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my friend, Brad Gordon on his retirement and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING MILANA HERMAN AS A VETERAN AND AS A PART OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 14, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Milana Herman for her achievements in the United States Army for Black History Month. Ms. Herman served in the Active Army from 1989 to 1994 and the Army Reserve from 1994 to 1997 and earned the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Staff Sergeant Herman served as part of the HHC 440th Signal Battalion in Germany, the HHC 4th Battalion 58th Aviation regiment in South Korea, and the HHC 25th Signal Brigade Battalion in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina during her time in the Active Army. She served in the 335th Company 4th Brigade, 85 Division in the Army Reserves. I commend her for her service and honor her as a part of the Black History Month Program in Rockford called "Capturing American History: The Unique Perspective of the African American Female Service Member." I would like to thank Milana Herman for her service and recognize her for her experiences as an African American female servicemember. Her bravery, strength and patriotism are admirable.

It is because of community leaders like Milana that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Milana Herman for her service in the United States Army.